

Oxford Counts

2001 Census – Demographic Trends & Housing Structure



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The 2001 Census of Canada Demographic data for Oxford County illustrates three patterns: 1.) a larger percentage of 0-14 year olds relative to the rest of Ontario; 2.) a larger percentage of 65+ relative to the rest of Ontario; and 3.) a smaller percentage of 25-54 year olds relative to the rest of Ontario.

The lower percentages in the 'middle age' cohorts point to the possible loss of working age males and females and post secondary students to regions outside of the County.

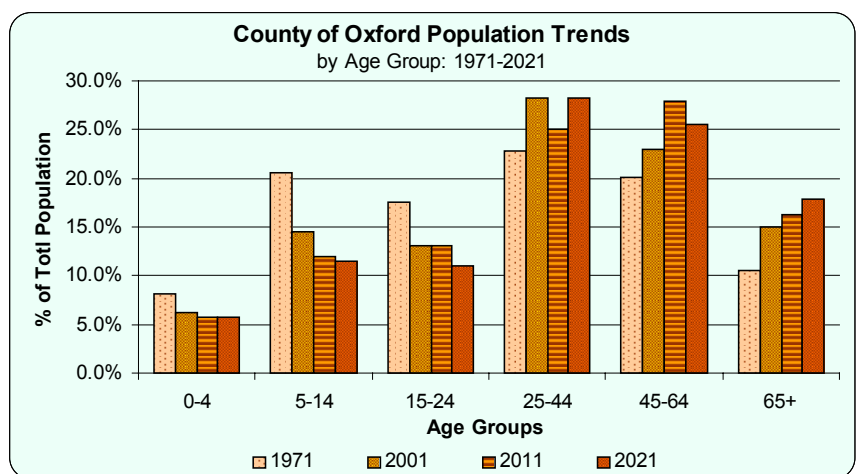
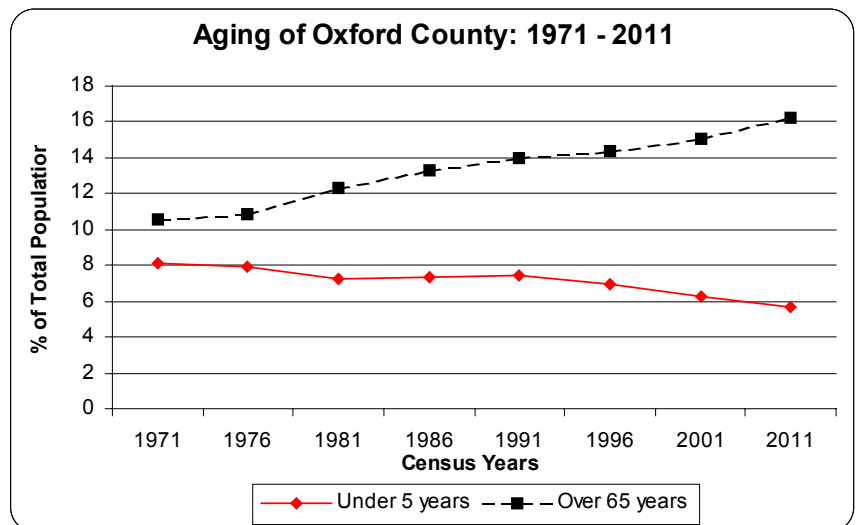
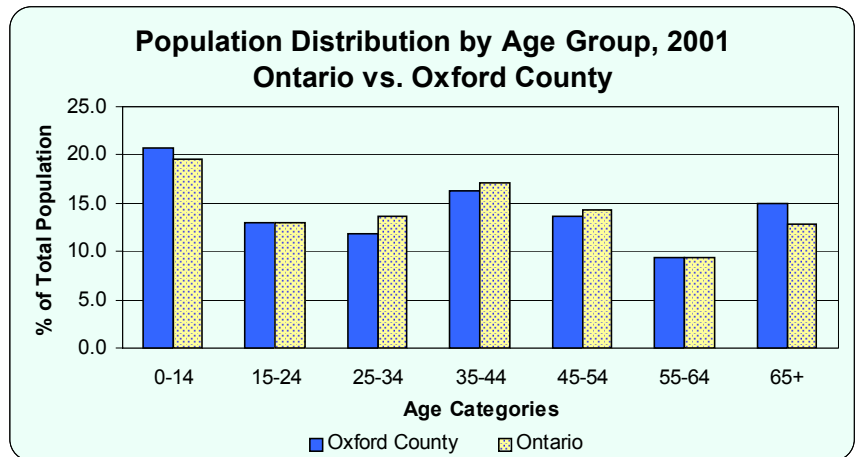
The County continues to see an increase in the 65+ age cohort as a percentage of the County total population. The under 5 years of age cohort has decreased from 8.1% of the total population in 1971 to 6.3% in 2001 and is projected to drop to 5.7% by 2011. The 65+ population has been increasing in size from 10.6% in 1971 to 15.0% in 2001 and is projected to be 16.3% by 2011. In concert with the increase in the 65+ age cohort, Provincial and County Life Expectancy has been steadily climbing (Table 1).

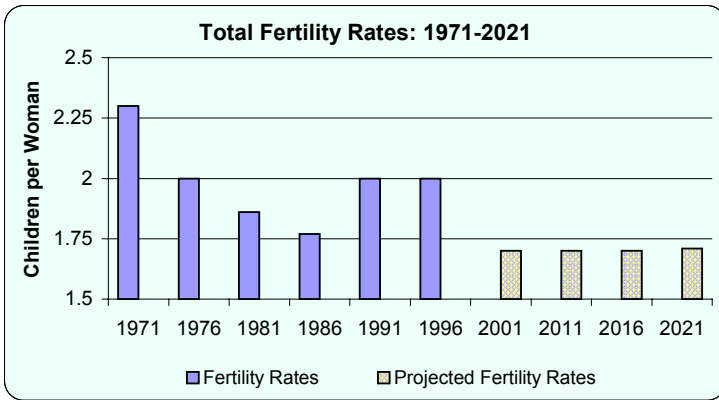
Table 1: Life Expectancy 1971-2016

Year	Ontario		Oxford County	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1971	69.6	76.8	Na	Na
1976	70.6	77.7	70.5	77.6
1981	72.2	79.0	72.8	78.7
1986	73.5	79.1	73.9	79.8
1990	74.1	79.5	74.3	81.0
1996	76.1	81.4	75.6	80.5
2001*	77.1	82.0	76.2	81.6
2006*	77.9	82.4	76.9	82.1
2016*	79.3	83.4	78.5	83.1

*Projected figures

Past trends and future projections for the County suggest a continued shift in the age cohort categories towards an older population. This is in keeping with the overall trends that are being experienced across Ontario and Canada.





Generally fertility rates over the past 20 years have shown a downward trend. A significant increase was recorded during the 1991 Census and has been sustained through the 1996 census year. Projections prepared by the County Planning Department to 2011 speculate that the County will see a continued decline in fertility rates to an average of 1.70 children per woman.

Statistics from the 1996 census indicated a continued weakening in the 20-24 age cohort fertility rate and a strengthening of the fertility rates in the 30-34 and 35-39 age cohorts in relation to rates recorded during the 1971-1981 period. This was found to be consistent with

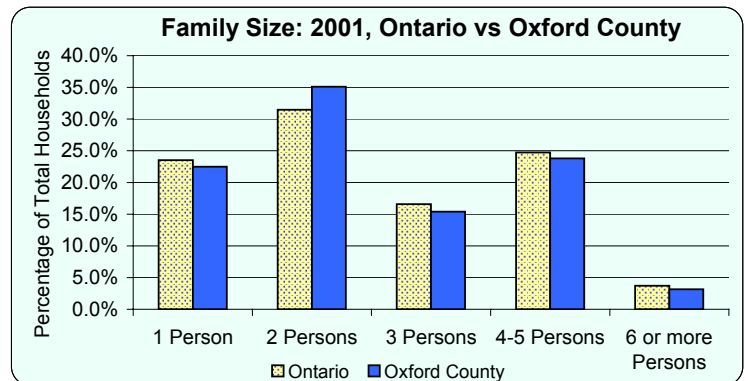
observations indicating that the prime childbearing years for Oxford County women are shifting from the 20-24 to the 25-49 and 30-34 age cohorts. The age cohorts were not utilized while calculating fertility rates in the 2001 census however, the trend is likely to continue.

HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE

A comparison of Ontario versus the County of Oxford illustrates that the County has a larger percentage of 2 person families than the provincial average. Although the percentages are very similar to provincial rates, the County has a slightly smaller percentage in all other categories.

The rural townships in Oxford exhibit a more pronounced difference in family structure than found in urban areas. At higher rate than both provincial and county averages, the number of '4-5 persons' and '6 or more person' households is significantly larger in the rural townships.

This trend is not surprising, given generally accepted notions regarding farm family sizes. The percentage of '2 person' households in both the rural and urban areas of the county is fairly consistent averaging 34.8% of all families representing by far the single largest category.



Comparative data for Ontario and Oxford on marital status reveals significantly lower percentages of single persons (15+) and higher percentages of widowed and married (Table 2). The percentage of married in the townships is also consistently *higher* than both the city/towns and the provincial average. Data on the percentage of separated/divorced shows the opposite pattern with the townships consistently *lower* than the County and Provincial averages.

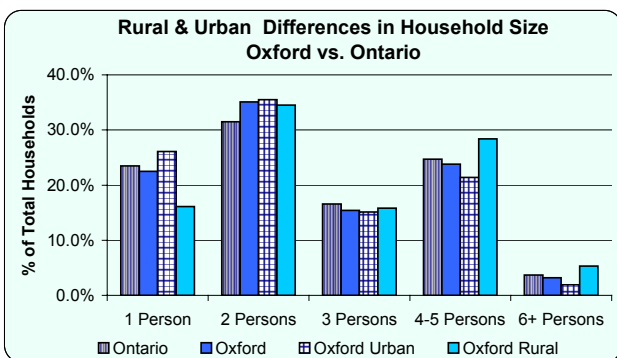


Table 2: 'Marital Status: 15 Years & Over' - 2001

	Single	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
Ontario	30.4%	53.4%	3.4%	6.5%	6.3%
Oxford	25.5%	57.2%	3.4%	6.6%	7.3%
Woodstock	26.5%	52.5%	4.3%	8.4%	8.4%
Tillsonburg	24.7%	54.5%	3.6%	7.5%	9.7%
Ingersoll	24.7%	55.8%	4.0%	7.8%	7.7%
BB Twp	24.3%	63.5%	2.7%	4.8%	4.6%
EZT Twp	23.5%	62.4%	2.2%	3.9%	8.1%
NOR Twp	26.0%	61.8%	2.5%	4.3%	5.3%
SWO Twp	26.3%	62.8%	2.2%	4.6%	4.2%
ZOR Twp	25.5%	62.7%	1.9%	4.7%	5.2%

Sources: Statistics Canada 2001 Census;

Population and Household Projections, 1996-2021 County of Oxford Community & Strategic Planning Office, 2001